

under the most favorable conditions. The best results are obtained if the operation is preceded by one or more transfusions, and those patients who relapse after operation may still be greatly helped by transfusion. Whether or not transfusions would have produced equally good results in the absence of splenectomy is a question that cannot at present be decided. The most favorable results may be expected in individuals who have not passed the fifth decade in whom the disease has not progressed for more than a year, and who have a relatively good blood picture (that is, an anemia that is not of too extreme a degree or of the steady, progressive type). Individuals with enlarged spleens have done better than those in whom the spleen was small or of normal size, as have also those suffering from an anemia characterized by excessive hemolysis. The opposite of these conditions should be considered as unfavorable factors, as should also the existence of spinal cord symptoms or the presence of an aplastic bone marrow.

PEDIATRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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A Case of Egg-poisoning (Anaphylaxis).—EDLESTON (*Practitioner*, vol. xcvii, No. 4) reports a well-marked case of egg anaphylaxis, first noticed at the age of twelve months. The first attack began after taking a few teaspoonfuls of custard pudding. The symptoms were those of an acute gastritis with frequent vomiting. She was given albumen water and rapidly collapsed. All food was then withdrawn, and later chicken broth was substituted, under which treatment she soon recovered. Eggs in every form were avoided after this, but on several occasions when given accidentally, the symptoms have usually been as follows: The child complains of feeling ill, and wants to lie down; the pupils dilate, and vomiting follows. In some attacks chemosis of the conjunctivæ supervenes. Urticaria has occurred in some of the attacks. On one occasion, while standing near her mother, who was beating an egg on a plate, a splash of egg flew into her eye. This was followed by rapid swelling, so that the eye could not be opened, but no other symptoms of poisoning followed. The child is now eleven years old, and is still as sensitive as ever to the poison.

A Case of Prolonged Hyperpyrexia in a Child with a Mid-brain Tumor.—TURNER (*Brit. Jour. Child. Dis.*, September, 1916) reports an unusual instance of prolonged hyperpyrexia associated with a tumor in the mid-brain. The child, aged one year and six months, was admitted to the hospital with the provisional diagnosis of meningitis. There was opisthotonos, squint, and convulsions on the day of admission. Hydrocephalus was present, the fontanelle being very tense.

Temperature was 103° on admission, pulse 172, and respirations 60. About two and a half ounces of clear colorless fluid was withdrawn by lumbar puncture, under great pressure. The fluid showed no increase in albumin; no cells were seen, and the cultures were sterile. The child lived for thirty days after admission, in a state of extreme rigidity. Lumbar puncture was repeated twice, the cells, mostly mononuclears, being more numerous than normal. The Wassermann reaction was negative. There was a low grade optic neuritis. The temperature was the most remarkable feature of the case. For a period of ten days it showed very great variation; once, or sometimes twice during twenty-four hours it would rise to 105°, 106° or 107°, and then rapidly falls so that in eight to twelve hours it would be normal or subnormal. The maximum was reached one morning at 7 A.M. when the axillary temperature was 109°, and the rectal 111°. Postmortem a solid rounded tumor was found situated in the mid-line in the region of the corpora quadrigemina. It did not involve the pons, optic thalami, or the cerebellum, but was pressing forward into the aqueduct of Sylvius, causing a block, with resulting distention of the third and lateral ventricles. Microscopically the section of the tumor showed it to consist of numbers of round cells, uniform in size, with but little intercellular substance. In parts the growth had undergone cystic degeneration, leaving a hyaline material without cell element: The author was unable to find a similar case recorded in the literature, and apart from the terminal hyperpyrexia of cerebral lesions, there is no mention to be found of any such condition occurring in cases of cerebral tumor.

The Bacteriology of the Urine in Healthy Children and those Suffering from Extra-urinary Infections.—BEELER and HELMHOLTZ (*Am. Jour. Dis. Child.*, October, 1916) report their bacteriological findings of catheterized specimens of urine taken from thirty girl infants and from thirty-one girls over two years of age. In 118 specimens of carefully catheterized urine from these 61 girls, 61 were sterile and 57 contained bacteria. Of those from normal infants, 13 were sterile and 11 contained bacteria. Of those from extra-urinary infections in patients under two years of age, none were sterile and 24 contained organisms. In those from girls over two years, 38 were sterile and 22 contained bacteria. The number of bacteria found in the urine of children under two years was considerably larger than in those over two years. This may be explained by the fact that in the older children one can cleanse the urethral orifice much easier than in the infant and introduce the catheter directly into the urethra. The bacterial flora was practically the same in both series, Gram-positive cocci and diphtheroid organisms predominating, the former being present in practically every case in which any organisms were found. In no instance were Gram-negative bacilli found in such numbers in both specimens that it seemed probable that it was more than an accidental contamination from the urethra. The conclusions the authors draw are, (1) that organisms of the colon bacillus group are not normal inhabitants of the female urethra; (2) that in extra-urinary infections occurring in the first two years of life the colon group of bacilli are frequently found in the urethra (one-third of the cases); (3) that in girls over two years of age the urine is almost free of organisms, and in their series entirely free from bacilli of the colon group (eighteen normal, twelve other infections).